

## CHAPTER 4 SUMMARY: ““THE MAJESTIC IN THE MUNDANE””

*Seek First: How the Kingdom of God Changes Everything*, by Jeremy Treat

---

***Nothing matters but the kingdom, but because of the kingdom everything matters. — Gordon Spykman***

- “Jesus offers his own theory of everything—a comprehensive vision for how and why we live. It’s called the kingdom of God” (p. 63).
- “The Kingdom is a vision for God’s reign over all of life. God’s reign begins in the human heart, but it doesn’t end there. One day it will spread to the ends of the earth, and until that day, Jesus calls us to bring every aspect of our lives into submission to his gracious reign” (p. 64).

### **OUR COMPARTMENTALIZED FAITH**

- “We may claim Jesus as king but then draw clear lines around his jurisdiction... We claim Christ as king, but we treat him like an accessory. Here’s the truth: when we don’t give *everything* over to Jesus, we’re still the one who is in control. We act as our own king and then try to use Jesus to accomplish our goals” (p. 65).
- Augustine, “If you believe what you like in the Gospels, and reject what you don’t like, it’s not the gospel you believe, but yourself” (p. 65).

### **CHRIST’S COMPREHENSIVE REIGN**

- “Jesus did not leave his heavenly throne and go to the cross to become Lord of your ‘spiritual life...’ Following Christ as king means to surrender every aspect of your life to him—work, relationships, politics, family, your past, your future—everything” (p. 65).
- “To surrender to the kingdom of Christ is to live under his comprehensive reign.... This all encompassing reign of Christ means that we must bring the gospel to bear on every aspect of our beings (minds, bodies, souls) and in every facet of life (spiritual, relational, social, etc)” (p. 66).
- “What happens in the heart is determinative of the rest, so if Jesus gets your heart, he gets all of you. Jesus doesn’t just reign *in* the heart, he reigns *from* the heart” (p. 67)

### **WORK**

- “All types of work matter in the kingdom of God. Jesus is working through the vocations of his people, who are salt and light in the industries where the Lord has placed them, witnessing in the way they do their work to a better kingdom” (p. 68).
- “For many people today, work is a way of building our own kingdom and making a name for ourselves. The gospel frees us from looking to our work as a way of justifying ourselves and allows us to see work for what it was meant to be: a calling from God to use our gifts and abilities to serve others and our society” (p. 70).

### **REST**

- “Our ability to rest is directly related to our faith in God’s ability to reign. If we really believe that God is the sovereign king over all, then we can take a break from our work because we trust that while we rest, he still reigns” (p. 71).

- "...true rest is more than just doing nothing; it is deliberately slowing down to refocus on what matters most. We pause from my work to dwell in the king's presence and a delight in his goodness. Resting reinforces that our identity is *received* rather than *achieved*" (p. 72).

## PLAY

- "Play—and what would eventually develop into sports—are part of God's good design and intention for his creation... We are created to play, and like a father who builds a sandbox for his children, God is honored and takes joy when his sons and daughters delight in his workmanship" (pp. 73-74).
- "Sports are a good hobby, maybe even a great job, but they are a bad god. If you look to sports for your identity, value, and meaning in life, you will be disappointed" (p. 74).

## FOOD

- "God has given food as a gift for us to enjoy. The gift is meant ultimately to reveal and invite us into the richness of the Giver.... Food is a sign pointing to a greater reality: God himself. Every bite is an opportunity to delight in God and his goodness" (p. 76).
- "Gluttony is *when we look for physical means to solve spiritual or emotional problems*. When someone is grieving and they run to food (rather than God) for comfort, that food has become an idol. When someone escapes dealing with pain by numbing it with alcohol, they are missing the opportunity to take the pain to God and experience healing" (p. 76).
- "Living under the reign of the resurrected king, we begin to view food from a kingdom perspective. Every bite we take is a foretaste of the eternal joy available in Christ. Every meal is a reminder that we will have a place of God's table. The King has invited us to his banquet, where we will feast on the most delicious food with the best friends in the presence of the greatest source of joy himself. We will be satisfied, and God will be glorified" (p. 78).

## ART

- "...beauty and art or not optional add-ons to life. While our culture values productivity and efficiency, our hearts long to be delighted, craving what is good, true, and beautiful. We are made for beauty, and our souls begin to shrivel when we cease to wonder" (p. 79).
- "Scripture gives artists the categories to show the beauty in reality of our world, to laud the admirable and lament the deplorable. It's only in the church understands the God-given significance of art and creativity, that the world will begin to see the truth in Gerald Manley Hopkins poem: 'The world is charged with the grandeur of God'" (p. 80).
- "...art is one of the best ways to communicate prophetically, speaking out against injustice and casting a vision for a better way. The kingdom of God is filled with artists who can revel in and reveal the beauty of God in a way that shines God's light and exposes the darkness" (p. 80).